100 mg. under the brand name 'Colsprin'. Few other brands of low dose Aspirin available in the market are Dynasprin (M/s USV), Loprin (M/s Unichem). Micropyrin (M/s Nicholas), Asprin (M/s Cipla), Aspicot (M/s Concept) etc.

Incidence of Heart Diseases in the country

1400. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Heart disease takes a beating in West, on the rise here", which appeared in the Economic Times, dated 1st October, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard so as to reduce the incidence of heart diseases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the causes of this disease are attributed among others to individual life style and food habits, the doctors are creating awareness among the people for adopting proper life style and food habits to control this disease.

Import of medicines and medical equipments

1401. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred annually for importing medicines and medical equipments during the last three years;

(b) the reason for huge quantity of import of medicines and medical equipments; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage indigenous production of these to reduce import?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Value of India's total import of medicine and Pharmaceutical Products during the last three years as per Foreign Trade Statistics of India — March 1998, 1999,